

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a discrete skin adherent and resilient sheet-like facing layer formed from a compound consisting of a hydrophobic discrete and resilient sheet-like layer of cross-linked-silicone gel and a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly, the facing layer having a plurality of preformed and uniformly shaped apertures arranged in a pattern;

~~wherein the silicone gel layer includes a skin treatment agent selected from the group consisting of aloe vera and petroleum jelly;~~

wherein the sheet-like shape of the facing layer is defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost first and second surfaces, the apertures solely formed between the outermost first and second surfaces;

wherein one of the outermost first and second surfaces of the facing layer is in a partially cured state.

Claim 2 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are defined in a pattern varying in number per unit area according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 3 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of apertures are defined in a pattern varying in size according to their location relative to a center axis of the silicone gel layer.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally circular.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are generally equally spaced from one another.

Claim 9 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the pattern of the apertures comprises alternating apertures of at least two different sizes.

Claim 10 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 9, wherein the apertures have two different sizes, the first size being larger than the second size and the apertures of the first size being bordered by the apertures of the second size.

Claim 11 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the apertures of the second size are bordered by the apertures of the first size.

Claim 12 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer has a progressive increase of tackiness extending from a central portion to a border portion thereof.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Original). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the silicone gel layer has regions of varying thickness.

Claims 15 – 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). A wound dressing for covering a wound, comprising:

a discrete skin adherent and resilient sheet-like facing layer formed from a compound consisting of a hydrophobic ~~discrete and resilient sheet-like layer of cross-linked~~ silicone gel, the facing layer having a plurality of preformed apertures arranged in a pattern, ~~the discrete and non-apertured regions of the~~ facing layer ~~having an uninterrupted thickness~~ consisting of the silicone gel;

wherein the sheet-like shape of the facing layer is defined by opposed, generally continuously planar outermost first and second surfaces, the apertures solely formed between the outermost surfaces;

wherein one of the outermost first and second surfaces is in a partially cured state.

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (New). The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the apertures of the facing layer have a diameter within the range of 0.05 to 1.0 mm, and have a density of 50 to 350 apertures/cm².